(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Shortage of runways at Delhi airport

*126. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that planes have to wait for an hour to take-off from Delhi airport due to lack of space, etc.;

(b) whether Government have any plan to meet the shortage of runway space in the immediate future;

(c) to what extent the AAI has been able to meet the anticipated growth in air traffic in Delhi;

(d) what immediate steps will be taken to find ways to meet the demand of space for landings and take-offs at Delhi;

(e) whether a more scientific use can be made of existing runways; and

(f) the steps proposed to meet this challenge immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, constraints are being experienced during peak hours of traffic in the morning and evening.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been constrained by its state of infrastructure to meet the traffic demand growing at unprecedented manner at the desired satisfaction levels of the stakeholders.

(d) to (f) To reduce Runway Occupancy Time and to increase the Runway Capacity, additional infrastructure such as Parallel Taxiways and Rapid Exit taxiways are being constructed. On commissioning of additional ground infrastructure both the runways will be put into operations. Operational procedures are also being developed separately. Besides, the Joint Venture Company (JVC) who will manage the IGI Airport, Delhi post restructuring will be mandated to construct a new

parallel runway alongwith initial parallel taxiways and high speed exit taxiways & other entry/exit taxiways, western pair of cross link taxiways and new link taxiway leading to the domestic apron etc. within 24 months of signing of OMDA.

Foreign Institutions in Indian share market

†*127. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign institutions in increasing rapidly in the share market;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the number of foreign companies was 68 in March, 2005 which has increased to 721 till 10th June, 2005;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for foreign institutions entering rapidly in the Indian share market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The total number of FIIs registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) went up from 540 as on March 31, 2004 to 685 as on March 31, 2005, and further to 731 till June, 2005.

(d) The positive FIIs inflows in the recent past could be attributed to several factors, such as continued economic reforms including in the financial sector, strong economic fundamentals, improved prudential and regulatory standards and attractive valuation of companies.

Impact of prices of crude oil on the inflation rate

†*128. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inflation rate has been more in the financial year 2004-05 in comparison to the last five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.